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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/581,946	11/08/2000	Jose Francisco Garcia Martin	GARCIA-MARTI	6651

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EXAMINER

COHEN, CURTIS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/581,946	Applicant(s) Garcia-Martin et al
Examiner Curtis Cohen	Art Unit 3634

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS .
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, it will not be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period for reply will be thirty (30) days.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will result in abandonment of the application.
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 1, 2002.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance as to subject matter, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under First Inventor to File language, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 21, 22, 24-31, and 33-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) 24-29 is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 21, 22, 30, 31, and 33-36 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the priority documents.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

j) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
l) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
j) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is indefinite as to which elements constitute the “means for displacing” as required by claim 30, lines 9-10. The specification does not appear to describe such an element (see pages 10-11). Without knowing the element of the invention that facilitates this function, the examiner cannot ascertain whether or not elements of the prior art are anticipated by or obvious from the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371 of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

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Claims 21, 22 and 30, 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Emerling et al #5,904,002. Emerling et al teaches an inner door panel having a power window regulator subassembly and a door lock subassembly carried by said door trim panel. The subassembly is mounted to be movable relative to said door trim panel. A metal reinforcing plate is taught by member 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benoit et al #5,095,659. Benoit et al teaches a inner trim panel having a subpanel 11 that is detachable from the trim panel. Benoit et al does not explicitly state how the subpanel is attached to the inner trim panel. However, it is clear that it is attached by some fastening mechanism. Nevertheless, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use a hinge to attach the subpanel to the trim panel to allow for selective access without having to entirely remove the subpanel. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of applicant's invention, to provide Benoit et al with a hinge.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-29 are allowed for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Actions.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 30 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Curtis Cohen whose telephone number is (703) 308-2106.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



C. Cohen

April 19, 2002